

Regional Interagency Coordinating Committee Meeting
Region V
May 9, 2007

Present:

Jane Nelson, Project Coordinator, Experienced Parent Project and Chairperson
Sheila Jensen, Experienced Parent Project
Tanya Semingson, MeritCare
Julie Thorstad, MeritCare
John Yates, Fargo Public Schools
Michelle Enockson, Innovis Health
Kimberly Zeeb-Schaff, Fraser, Ltd.
Keith Gustafson, KIDS
Deb Pullen, SE KIDS
Janette Venass Gilbraith, Pediatric Therapy Partners
Pennie Hatlestad, SENDCAA Head Start/EHS
Terese Schaefer, West Fargo Public Schools
Mari Quittschreiber, Right Track Program
Wanda Carlson, Southeast Human Service Center
Janis Johnson, Southeast Human Service Center
Susan Landa, Alliance Therapy
Ron Flesland, Innovis Health
Missy Brademeyer, Parent/Cade's World
Hollie Nelson, OTR/L
Kim Hemberger, NDPASS PAT
Mary Schaefer, FPS Even Start

Time: 11:30 A.M.-1:00 P.M.

RICC met today at Innovis Health

1. Introductions were made.
2. Information shared.

Michelle Enockson shared information on Safe Kids Fargo/Moorhead Coalition. It is funded by Kohl's Department Store and MeritCare Children's Hospital. Their mission is to reduce and prevent accidental injuries to children by creating and supporting child-safe communities through educating families and children, providing safety devices, and advocating for public policy change. Some community services available include car seat safety checks, crib safety checks, bike safety rodeo, farm safety, safety safari at the zoo, etc. Brochures and magnets were handed out. You can call (701) 234-7233 or visit the web site at www.safekids.meritcare.org for further info or to request being added to their mailing list.

Pennie Hatlestad passed around an agenda for the 7th Annual Brain Development conference: Every Child Counts, being held August 8 and 9 at the Shooting Star Casino in Mahanomen, MN. The conference shares info and

strategies to better serve children and families with tentative topics such as Identifying Mental Illness in Children; Multi-generational Effects; Children and Play; Dealing with Grief and Loss; Enhancing Parent/Caregiver Involvement; Thinking Outside the Box; etc. She stated it is an excellent conference and fills up fast. Visit their web site for registration info <http://www.whiteearthchildcare.com/conference.htm>.

Susan Landa announced an open house at Alliance Therapy tomorrow from 11:30-6:00. Their expanded pediatric therapy clinic provides PT, OT and speech services in the F-M area and are located at 1207 Prairie Parkway, West Fargo.

Fraser, Ltd. is hosting Volunteer Camp for ages 10-14, according to Kimberly Zeeb-Schaff. The camp will be held Monday-Friday from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Registration is limited to the first 50 participants with a \$15 fee. Register with Kimberly at 232-3301 or check out the www.Fraserltd.org website. Co-leaders are also needed.

Discussion was held regarding a conference that had recently been held with the topic being mental health issues among school-age kids and new ED guidelines. SEHSC's Partnership Program and the schools are working very well together on this issue. Check the ND Public Instructions website for more info.

Question arose regarding mental health programs/ issues for Minnesota residents. It was suggested to contact Clay County Social Services to start with.

Discussion held regarding the need for speech, OT, PT, etc. services in rural areas, especially for children. Still looking for resources for younger kids and the school representatives. School districts are able to share resources. Missy also mentioned the difficulty that occurs in finding steady caregivers in her home area – Lisbon. Wanda stated there might be a group residential setting being starting soon for kids just now graduating from high school. Open Door – who runs several DD facilities in Valley City – is the chosen provider. If they are able to get established in the community, it may be a better resource for reliable staff in Family Support Services as well. Jane stated she would like to see more involvement of rural people in RICC and Missy's participation today is appreciated.

Kim Hemberger distributed information on the NDPASS and Parent as Teachers and explained the recent changes to PAT. The new grant changed the early childhood component by changing the focus from providing direct services to families to a broader mission of promoting early childhood parent education statewide. Emphasis is on collaboration with statewide agencies and organizations to promote advances in early care and education, including home visitation programs. Direct therapies are no longer provided. Kim stated that this is going to be somewhat of a planning/transition year for them. Training sessions are upcoming. Contact information can be found on the handout and the NDPASS website at ndpass@ideaone.net. They are located in the CHARISM building and have available a lending library and many other resources for

parents and kids. Kim also mentioned the Education Begins at Home Act, which is an excellent piece of legislation that would provide funding for home visits. People can contact their legislators for further details.

Head Start - Legislation is pending regarding an increase to 130% of poverty level for Head Start eligibility. More kids will become eligible, which is good, but will make for a longer waiting list. Pennie Hatlestad stated there is already a long waiting list for 3-year-olds.

The Even Start program is an education program for low-income families and designed to improve the academic achievement of young children and their parents, especially in the area of reading. Even Start is located in the Woodrow Wilson School. Mary Schaefer stated their budget was reduced significantly and they face major program cut backs.

Jane talked about the 2007 Family Connections Conference: When Children Have Special Needs, coming up at the Doublewood Inn in Fargo, June 14, 15, 16. The conference is for families with any kind of need(s) and also for those who work with families in any capacity. Childcare is available and reimbursement is likely possible. Coverage for lodging and meals (if more than 100 miles out) may be possible also. If you have any questions, if you need more brochures, or if requesting special accommodations, call Jane at 701-237-3558. Encourage your families and co-workers to attend.

Keith Gustafson, CEO, Northern Plains Special Education, and director of the 4 KIDS program (Grand Forks, Fargo, Jamestown, Devils Lake), along with Deb Pullen, SE KIDS, emphasized the need for more funding for early intervention services. A survey will be coming out looking for areas of need. For further information, visit www.discovernd.com for a list of legislative names/districts as well as ND Public Instruction info.

Quality Improvement Plan review, update and discussion will be postponed until our next meeting. The data that is to be assembled for our region has yet to be received.

Handout was available on the way out – The May 7, 2007 Family Voices of ND e-News. The newsletter is full of information, web links, etc. You can visit their website at fvnd@drtel.net.

Our next meeting is scheduled for August 8th with a tentative location of Eagles Early Childhood Center. Look for details when the agenda comes out. If you have topics for discussion, or a speaker/presenter in mind, contact Jane.

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